



The Lemonier Express

February 2004

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Message From the Commander

Happy Valentine's Day! Another month ripped off the calendar and put in the circular file. February is a great month, but we will be a little short on Valentine's celebration out here (a card from the Sergeant Major just isn't the same...). The weather is not really getting any warmer, but the humidity is up so it is definitely feeling warmer. That said, we are still enjoying the "cooler" winter months of the year out here (still over 100 every day at noon).

We had the chance to see the Super Bowl "live" which was a treat for anyone dumb enough to stay up until 2:30 AM for the game to start. I understand it was a great game for those whose eyes were still open...and mine were not!

We continue to be active in many of the countries out here (Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, and Yemen). We are moving forward to open relations with Tanzania and Uganda as well. Yesterday, Gen Abizaid challenged the forces in Iraq and Afghanistan to work towards a solution that was closer to the CJTF-HOA than the current situation they both enjoy. Clearly, partnership with Host Nations is a better way to win this war than being at odds with them. Your loved ones are doing a great job and many in Washington DC have described what they are accomplishing here as the model for the future.

Your loved ones are having a significant impact out here in winning back the neighborhoods from the terrorists who would seek to move in and enflame the passions of an impoverished people. We are winning and you should be proud. Hang tough and keep your eye on our President's objective – to free the world of terrorist tyranny. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Keep the home fires burning and God bless you.

Sincerely,

Mastin M. Robeson
Brigadier General, US Marine Corps
Commander, CJTF-HOA



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa

- Lt. Kevin S. Barnett - USN

- 24 hrs Tel: 011-973-82-9257
- e-mail: frouafrica@hoa.centcom.mil

Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

- Lt. J. A. Polson - USMC

Tel: (910) 451-8735

e-mail: frousa1@hoa.centcom.mil

Family Readiness Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

- Gunnery Sgt. F. V. Munoz

Tel: (910) 451-8727/8733

• e-mail: frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil

From the Enduring Freedom Chapel



CONNECTIONS

“In the beginning God created” is how the Bible describes God’s creative power displayed in the book of Genesis. From the very onset of creation the Bible depicts us needing one another. Adam was perfect yet felt alone and isolated even with God’s presence for company. When God realized it was not good for Adam to be alone he kept right on creating and brought into being Eve. Adam’s reaction to Eve is poetic, “this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh,” he declares. Intuitively, he recognizes her as his helpmate and friend and the first couple are united and society created.

We are social beings, created for interaction, love and nurture with one another. Families who tell us our name long before we can talk shape our very identity. Our parents pass along their genes, give us a sense of belonging and well-being. And, in a real sense, this connection sustains us throughout our life.

February is the month we mark on the calendar with the observance of Valentine’s Day. For many of you, and for most of us, we will spend this month and holiday apart. However, because of the power of love, and the connection of family, we will feel the gentle tug, like an unseen kite in the sky attached to a ball of string, of one another. Never a day goes by that we do not think about our families and loved ones at home. Nor does a day go by where we do not realize how much you care and support us. We are here, defending enduring freedom, yet connected to you, the ones we love. We send you our love as we defend freedom and America on Valentine’s Day 2004.

**God bless you all.
Chaplain Jack Lea**

Military personnel and their families get free tax help!

The military is one of our strongest partners in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The Armed Forces Tax Council (AFTC) consists of the tax program coordinators for the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The AFTC oversees the operation of the military tax programs worldwide, and serves as the main conduit for outreach by the IRS to military personnel and their families.

Marines, airmen, soldiers, sailors, and guardsmen, and their families' worldwide get tax preparation help at offices within their installations. These VITA sites provide free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families. They are trained and equipped to address military specific tax issues, such as [combat zone](#) benefits and the effect of the new [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\)](#) guidelines. The

military tax programs generated over 400,000 electronic 2002 federal income tax returns.

Commanders support the program by detailing service members to prepare returns and by providing space and equipment for tax centers. The IRS supports these efforts by providing tax software and by training service members to prepare taxes at the military sites.

Most service members file their tax returns electronically at their tax centers and, by selecting direct deposit, receive their refunds in as little as one week. This combined effort ensures that service members receive free tax assistance from well-trained and equipped military tax preparers. Visit www.irs.gov for information about filing tax online and about file extensions or visit your local VITA representative.

Interest-free loans reduce college costs

With rising college costs, interest-free loans can be a blessing for a parent with children in college. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is offering a \$3,000 interest-free loan to the children of active-duty service members.

"Anyway to help further education is great," said Vicki J. Wilson, office manager of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. "It's a great opportunity for service

members and their children."

The Vice Adm. E. P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program provides financial assistance for full-time undergraduate students and is based on a financial need. To be eligible for the loan the applicant must be the child of active-duty Navy or Marine Corps personnel, possess a military identification card, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time

student in a post-secondary institution approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The applicant must have or maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

A loan from the Travers Program is for one academic year, and must be renewed every year, according to www.nmcra.org. For more information contact NCMRS at 451-5346 or education@hq.nmcra.org.

The Old Guard

Team Battlehard training included the following:

Mil-to-mil, basic infantry skills, with the soldiers of the Ethiopian army at Hurso, Ethiopia.

Mil-to-mil, infantry combat fundamentals, training with soldiers of the Djiboutian army Rapid Reaction Force & Republican Guard at Arta, Djibouti.

Military operations on urban terrain maneuver training at Camp Lemonier.

Combat water survival training at Camp Lemonier
Various Helos training exercises.

Congratulations to the following Battlehard soldiers whose children were recently born:

Spc. Adam Kern, baby boy, Jan. 10, 2004

Spc. Wesley Lavine, baby boy, Feb. 2, 2004

Spc. George Meacham, baby boy, Jan. 23, 2004

Promotions:

Congratulations to the following Battlehard soldiers who were promoted in January:

Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:
Staff Sgt. Robert Allison

Specialist To Sergeant:
Sgt. Joseph Hutton
Sgt. Travis Raxter

Private 1st Class to Specialist:
Spc. Jeremy Brown
Spc. William Fritsche
Spc. Matthew Wagner

Private to Private 1st Class
Matthew Harrington

Expeditionary Medical Unit

The EMU conducted the following training:

Missions: Provided medical assets for the Tadjoura MEDCAP.

Training: Conducted one Mass Casualty Drill, 4 man down drills.

Awards: Navy Achievement Medals to Lt j.g. David Davis and HM2 Tamara Marks.



A memorial display of flight gear, a folded flag and a photograph of Marine Capt. Seth Michaud sit on a table in front of the newly dedicated Michaud Medical/Dental Clinic here Jan. 31. The facility will serve as a lasting memory to the contributions and ultimate sacrifice of Michaud, who died in a training accident here June 22, 2003. The newly constructed, fixed facility will also provide the camp with a wide range of medical and surgical services in a more sanitary and healthful environment.

Unit Updates

Task Force Betio

Task Force Betio conducted the following training:

10-12 Jan: India Company platoons conducted fire team and squad sized live-fire attacks on Range CT-5

22-27 Jan: Lt. Col. Dunahoe (3/2's Commanding Officer) visited the Marines of India Company.

25-26 Jan: India Company's Weapons Platoon conducted joint live-fire training with the Old Guard's .50 cal machine gunners and 81mm mortar section on Range CH-14.

1 Feb: CAAT platoon, our scout sniper team, and MWSS 272 conducted combined training using medium and heavy machine guns and M14 sniper rifles while on Range CH-14.

2-4 Feb: India Company conducted Enhanced Marksmanship Program (EMP) and Designated Marksmanship (DM) training on Range CT-5 with two DM's from the Old Guard.

Promotions:

India Company:

GySgt. Hogancamp, B.C.

MWSS 272:

Sgt. Wells, M.S.

Cpl. Hall, J.R.

Cpl. Lincoln, J.D.

Cpl. Gauthier, D.

LCpl. Laracuente, G.A.

Board Winners:

LCpl John J. Pomeroy won MARCENT's "Service member of the Month."

Cpl Jose Villegas won MARCENT's "NCO of the Month."

Welcome aboard MWSS-272 and Kilo Company, Fare well India Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment of the 2nd Marine Division

HMH-464 Det. A (Rein) "Condors and Wolverines"

Promotions:

The following Marines were promoted to their present rank,

Sgt. Boyd

Cpl. Comeau

Cpl. Prince

LCpl. Brown

Pfc. Sliva

Congratulation to Capt. Nelson's wife who had a baby in January.

MARCENT

Promotions:

The following Marines were promoted to their present rank,

Master Sgt. Veronica Tayo

GySgt. Brain Hogancamp

Sgt. Michael Wells

Cpl. James Hall

Cpl. James Lincoln

Cpl. Allen Alvarez

Cpl. Rafael Muniz

Cpl. Justin Skonieczny

Cpl. Daniel Gauthier

Welcome Aboard Camp Lemonier

Lt. Col. Richard Nixon-Eckersall, (COAL), Mr. Michael Nelson, (DOD), Mrs. Lenore Santone, (DOD), Staff Sgt. Erik Barlett, (USA), Col. Edmund Daley, (USA), Maj. Cheryl McAuley, (USA), Maj. John Minehan, (USA), Sgt. Maj. Donna Ramsey, (USA), 1st Lt. Paul Robson, (USA), Lt. Col. Timothy Sullivan, (USA), Sgt. Maj. Ralph Titus, (USA), 1st Lt. Daniel Bernath, (USAF), Master Sgt. Julie Crespi, (USAF), Master Sgt. Bruce Gress, (USAF), Staff Sgt. John Jordon, (USAF), Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Tackett, (USAF), Lt. Col. David Wetlesen, (USAF), Master Sgt. Leonard Atkins, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Dwayne Boyce, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Alfred Broadus, (USMC), Lance Cpl. James Buckley, (USMC), 1st Lt. Emmanuel Carper, (USMC), Cpl. Noah Chadee, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Jason Cobb,

(USMC), Staff Sgt. Kent Corbett, (USMC), 1st Lt. Stacey Crite, (USMC), 1st Sgt. Courtney Curtis, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Joseph Cushman, (USMC), 1st Lt. Christopher Demetriades, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Romec Filrang, (USMC), Capt. John Fleming, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Lucius Francis, (USMC), Cpl. Sean Gleason, (USMC), Capt. William Gordon, (USMC), Gunnery Sgt. David Groseclose, (USMC), Sgt. Charlie Hall, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Jonathan Hardy, (USMC), Cpl. Antoine Hayward, (USMC), Sgt. John Houser, (USMC), Capt. Jeffrey Houston, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Joshua Huddleston, (USMC), Capt. Michael Kennett, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Leopard, (USMC), Sgt. Keith Minick, (USMC), Capt. Roger Mousel, (USMC), Lance Cpl. John Nagy, (USMC), Master Gunnery Sgt. Benny Odum,

(USMC), Cpl. Casey Overturf, (USMC), Capt. Matthew Patmon, (USMC), Sgt. Maj. Bruce Poland, (USMC), Maj. Thomas Pratt, (USMC), Pfc. Spencer Quiner, (USMC), Pfc. Jeffrey Rebhun, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Peter Santos, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Cory Saxton, (USMC), Maj. Robert Schubert, (USMC), Capt. James Semmens, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Phillip Shrout, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Matthew Smith, (USMC), Cpl. Christopher Stergos, (USMC), Master Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Stevens, (USMC), Cpl. Michael Taggart, (USMC), Capt. Chad Vandenberg, (USMC), Lt. Col. Marianne Waldrop, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Anthony Webb, (USMC), 1st Lt. Brian Wilson, (USMC), Chief Petty Officer Robert Neumann, (USN), Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Sandoval, (USN).

Fare Thee Well

Mr. Ahmed Adaweh, (DOD), Petty Officer 1st Class Harry Allison, (USN), Master Gunnery Sgt. James Apriesnig, (USMC), Master Sgt. Paul Atherton, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Daniel Barr, (USAF), Maj. Michael Barry, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Jeffery Bartek, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Mark Beaton, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Shane Beckwith, (USA), Staff Sgt. Thomas Binning, (USMC), Capt. Brandon Bolling, (USMC), Lt. Col. Mark Bourdon, (USMC), Cpl. Joseph Brinck, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Dylan Brobst, (USMC), Cpl. Thomas Brock, (USMC), Sgt. First Class Brent Buckley, (USA), Lt. Jeffrey Cahill, (USN), Cpl. Christopher Caler, (USMC), Master Sgt. Anthony Camancho, (USA), Capt. Omar

Carcamo, (USA), Tech Sgt. Thomas Chilson, (USAF), Lance Cpl. Jason Cobb, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Daniel Cwiok, (USA), Maj. Jonathan Davenport, (USA), Capt. Kelly Davison, (USA), Lance Cpl. Matthew Day, (USMC), Sgt. Christopher Deanes, (USMC), Maj. Michael Dellamico, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Levine Delprado, (USA), 1st Lt. John Dempsey, (USMC), Maj. Timothy Dentry, (USMC), Maj. James Desy, (USMC), Capt. Brent Dodd, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Tony Douglass, (USA), Staff Sgt. Timothy Edwards, (USMC), Cpl. Eric Ely, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Lucas Embry, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Jorge Evans, (USA), Lance Cpl. Matthew Faw, (USMC), Gunnery Sgt. Paul

Finn, (USMC), Maj. James Flanders, (USA), Capt. Eric Flesch, (USA), Sgt. Jennifer Garcia, (USA), Chief Petty Officer Mark Genes, (USN), Staff Sgt. Sharlene Gilmore, (USA), Maj. Donald Gongaware, (USA), Capt. Francisco Gonzalez, (USAF), Sgt. Denise Goode, (USA), Lance Cpl. Jessica Grassi, (USMC), Spc. Robert Greene, (USA), Master Sgt. Larry Groff, (USAF), Cmdr. Jon Hagemann, (USN), 1st Lt. Brent Hampton, (USMC), Sgt. Charles Hatfield, (USMC), Sgt. First Class Derrell Hilgers, (USA), Staff Sgt. Travis Hiller, (USMC), Master Sgt. Robert Hogan, (USMC), Lt. Brad Hogan, (USN), Spc. Terrance Holloman, (USA),

Fare Thee Well continued

Maj. Christopher Horgan, (USA), Maj. Michael Huffman, (USA), Sgt. Maj. William Hunt, (USMC), Sgt. Maj. William Hunt, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hunt, (USA), Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson, (USMC), Maj. Michael Johnson, (USA), Capt. Kris Kerpa, (USA), Cpl. Anitra Kinsey, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Michael Knight, (USA), Sgt. Brian Koehn, (USMC), Capt. David Kowalski, (USMC), Capt. Bryan Kus, (USMC), Sgt. Christopher Lake, (USMC), Lance Cpl. James Lamb, (USMC), Cpl. Jacob Laskowski, (USMC), Maj. William Leneweaver, (USA), Lance Cpl. Jennifer Lonas, (USMC), Chief Petty Officer Brantley Lowe, (USN), Sgt. Maj. Kurt Lugo, (USA), Capt. John Macfarlane, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Manuel Machado, (USMC), Lt. Col. David Major, (USA), Sgt. Matthew Mancebo, (USMC), Senior Airman Robert Martin, (USAF), Lt. Jason Martin, (USN), Capt. David May, (USAF), Cpl. Zachary Mays, (USMC), Sgt. Ryan McArdle, (USA), Gunnery Sgt. Gerard

McGurty, (USMC), 1st Sgt. Robert McLaren, (USA), Maj. Michael McMichael, (USMC), Lt. Ralph McQueen, (USN), Lance Cpl. Andres Mejia, (USMC), Capt. Andrew Merz, (USMC), Tech Sgt. Regis Metro, (USAF), Mr. Timothy Metzler, (DOD), Master Sgt. Patrick Meyers, (USA), Lance Cpl. Louis Miller, (USMC), Maj. Phillip Millerd, (USMC), Cpl. Donald Milton, (USMC), Maj. Matthew Morgan, (USMC), Mr. Alvin Morse, (DOD), Ensign Jon Muhoberac, (USN), Sgt. Sheri Murphy, (USA), Sgt. First Class David Niles, (USA), Maj. Robert Noren, (USAF), Capt. Mark Nutsch, (USA), Maj. Timothy O'Connor, (USAF), Sgt. Jeremiah Ormes, (USMC), Cpl. Adrian Otero, (USMC), Master Sgt. Craig Parker, (USMC), Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Phillips, (USMC), Capt. David Polkinghorn, (USA), Spc. Christopher Pursley, (USA), Senior Master Sgt. Michael Ramsey, (USAF), Master Sgt. Linda Rathke, (USA), Lt. John Regelbrugge, (USN), Lt. Col. Glen Reinhold, (USMC), Sgt.

Matthew Roberson, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Robert Roller, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Thomas Sancrant, (USMC), Lt. Cmdr. Shannon Seay, (USN), Sgt. Bradly Shaver, (USMC), Capt. James Sides, (USA), Cmdr. Richard Sisk, (USN), Sgt. Erik Skaggs, (USA), Maj. Brian Smallwood, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Joshua Smith, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Charles Smith, (USA), Maj. Dane Snowden, (USA), 1st Lt. Anthony Spevak, (USMC), Cpl. Ryan Stabler, (USMC), Master Sgt. Harold Teague, (USA), Cpl. James Terry, (USMC), Sgt. Lisa Thompson, (USMC), Lt. j.g. Matthew Valle, (USN), Maj. Richard Vanwell, (USA), Sgt. First Class Victor Velazquez, (USA), Master Gunnery Sgt. Barry Walker, (USMC), Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Wallace, (USN), Col. James Wedertz, (USAF), Maj. Kristina Wenger, (USMC), Maj. Niecko Williams, (USAF), Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Wolf, (USA), Lt. Col. Mark Wriggle, (USMC), Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Wright, (USN), Sgt. Lucas Young, (USA).

Awards

Defense Meritorious Service Medal: Maj. Jon Duke, (USMC), Master Sgt. James Henderson, (USMC), Lt. Col. Stephen Hoyle, (USMC), Master Sgt. Gregory Jones, (USMC), Cmdr. Charles Roots, (USN), Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Shidaker, (USMC), Col. Joseph Vaccaro, (USMC).

Joint Service Commendation Medal:

Master Sgt. Paul Atherton, (USMC), Capt. James Bartell, (USMC), Lt. John Bleidorn, (USN), Lt. Col. Jerard Brewer, (USMC), Lt. Col. Louis Cala, (USMC), Capt. Kenneth Casais, (USMC), Cpl. Jason Day, (USMC), Cpl. Eric Ely, (USMC), Lt. Col. Jeffrey Endicott, (USMC), Gunnery Sgt. Paul Finn, (USMC), 1st Lt. Jason Franz, (USMC), Cpl. Bruce Howard, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Michael Knight,

(USA), Master Sgt. Doyle Krouskop, (USA), SSgt. Robert Richards, (USMC), SSgt. Robert Richards, (USMC), Gunnery Sgt. Alexander Shade, (USMC), SSgt. James Swanson, (USMC), Maj. Philip Toretti, (USMC), Lt. Col. William Watson, (USMC), Capt. Charles Winchester, (USMC), Capt. Sara Yoder, (USA), Capt. Sara Yoder, (USA)

Joint Service Achievement Medal:

(USMC), Gunnery Sgt. Frank Bellini, (USMC), Cpl. Jason Brown, (USMC), Cpl. Eric Ely, (USMC), SSgt. Derrick Freeman, (USMC), Petty Officer 1st Class Todd Gibson, (USN), Sgt. Kelley Herrera, (USMC), Sgt. Nicholas Hidy, (USMC), Cpl. Bruce Howard, (USMC), Sgt. Dwane Johnson, (USMC), Staff Sgt. Pat

Kuberry, (USA), Sgt. Robert LaBonty, (USMC), Petty Officer 1st Class Ruben Martinez, (USN), Petty Officer 1st Class Ruben Martinez, (USN), Cpl. Venoy Mattamana, (USMC), Lance Cpl. Gregg Omine, (USMC), Chief Petty Officer Paul Palacios, (USN), Lance Cpl. Shawn Putnam, (USMC), Cpl. Charlie Rattley, (USMC), Tech Sgt. Michael Russ, (USAF), Warrant Officer 1 Jose Santos, (USMC), Sgt. Benedict Solis, (USMC).

Certificate of Achievement

Gunnery Sgt. Frank Bellini, (USMC).

Certificate of Commendation:

SSgt. Warren Daniels, (USMC).